

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

1. Please amend the title as follows:

~~METHOD FOR REDUCING A STANDBY PERIOD OF TIME FOR PRINTING~~

2. Please amend the second paragraph on page 1, from line 11 through line 13, as follows:

The present invention relates, ~~in general, to a method and system for~~ reducing standby time for printers. More specifically, the invention concerns a method and system and program storage device for reducing standby time for printing in a set of networked printers.

3. Please amend the paragraphs bridging pages 4 through 6, from line 10 on page 4 through line 4 on page 6, as follows:

Accordingly, the present invention is directed to solving the above problems occurring in the prior art. An object of the present invention is to provide a method and system; which is capable of reducing a standby period of time for printing and a program storage device, readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions

executable by the machine to perform a method of reducing standby time for printing in a system of networked printers connected to at least one host computer. According to the present invention, when a host computer detects the amount of print operations in every networked one of a plurality of printers, it transmits print data to a network printer that has no pending print operation or else has the least amount of print operations, and causes the network printer to print the print data.

The present invention involves the ~~steps of~~ registering at least one item of network print information in the host computer; detecting the network printer information registered in the host computer if a command for printing has been selected; transmitting a command for requesting the network printers to transmit information concerning the amount of standby print operations using detected network printer information; ~~valuating~~ evaluating the information concerning the amount of the standby print operations transmitted from the network printers in response to the command for requesting the network printers to transmit information concerning the amount of standby print operations; ~~detecting~~ determining a network printer having the least amount of standby print operations from among network printers having standby print operations; and transmitting print data to the so-detected network printer.

Preferably, the registration ~~step comprises the steps of~~ determining whether the command for registering network printer information in the host computer has been selected, ~~detecting~~ determining network printers connected to the network if the command for registering network printer information in the host computer has been

selected, and storing the network printer information in a memory of the host computer.

Preferably, the method further comprises ~~the steps of~~ assigning priority numbers to the network printer information in the detected order, and storing assigned priority numbers together with the network printer information in the memory.

Preferably, the network printer information includes at least an IP (Internet ~~protocol~~ Protocol) address of the registered network printer.

Preferably, the network print ~~detecting step~~ determining comprises ~~the steps of~~ ~~detecting~~ determining priority numbers that have been assigned to the network printers having the least amount of standby print operations ~~if the number of the network printers having the least amount of standby print operations is two or more~~, and ~~detecting~~ determining a network printer having a preferential priority number.

4. Please amend the last paragraph on page 6, from line 17 through line 18, as follows:

Fig. 4 is a flowchart showing a procedure for reducing standby time in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

5. Please amend the subtitle on line 3 on page 7 and the paragraph following the subtitle, as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION ~~OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS~~

In the following, ~~a preferred~~ an embodiment of the present invention is described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

6. Please delete the sixth paragraph, line 17, on page 7 in its entirety.
7. Please amend the third paragraph on page 11, from line 9 through line 13, as follows:

If the command for printing has been selected, control unit 10 detects Internet ~~Protocol~~ Protocol (IP) addresses among one or more items of network printer information stored in memory 11 and transmits to the detected IP addresses a command for requesting network printers 2 to transmit the information concerning the amount of standby print operations (S402).